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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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GROUP 1

15 July 1964

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Belgium-Congo: Brussels is uncertain about Tshombe's intentions and plans to sound him out on a number of unresolved problems between the two countries.

According to Spaak's chef de cabinet, the Foreign Ministry is preparing instructions for the Belgian ambassador in Leopoldville. The latter is to ask Tshombé whether he wants Belgian aid to the Congolese armed forces to continue and whether he stands by the Congolese-Belgian financial arrangements to which former Premier Adoula agreed last March. Belgium wants any request for the retention of Belgian Air Force units in the Congo in writing since Tshombé publicly opposed the dispatch of these units.

Spaak's aide has recommended that the ambassador ask Tshombé what he plans to do with the Congolese gendarmes and the Belgian and other European mercenaries Tshombé is reported bringing into the Congo from Angola. Tshombé is to be told that he cannot have both Belgian mercenaries and Belgian armed forces officers at the same time.

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Iraq: The decrees issued on 14 July which nationalized major segments of the Iraqi economy are almost certain to contribute greatly to growing unrest in the country.

The decrees will still further depress Iraqi commercial life, already in the doldrums. The regime had recently promised merchants that such nationalization measures would not be imposed.

The large Shia Moslem religious community, which plays a large part in Iraqi commerce, will be antagonized. Shia unrest has been perceptibly growing in recent months.

The decrees will also further fan discontent among elements opposed to closer ties with Egypt, who are likely to discern an attempt to align the Iraqi economy more closely with that of Egypt. Anti-Egyptian army officers, who have already begun to plot against the regime, will be encouraged to step up their activities.

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The Western-owned oil companies are not affected by the new decrees.

NOTES

South Vietnam: A broad, progovernment political movement has been launched combining elements of leading political parties and religious groups. Deputy Premier Hoan, the movement's sponsor, hopes to train political cadres to operate throughout the countryside and to develop a major mass organization to provide a political base for the regime. The organization appears to have only lukewarm endorsement from Premier Khanh, however, and could become the focus of non-Communist opposition sentiment.

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Laos: A Laotian T-28 aircraft was shot down yesterday while attacking Pathet Lao positions east of the Plaine des Jarres. The plane was hit while flying at low altitude within range of Communist automatic weapons fire. This is the first shoot-down since the recent outbreak of fighting for the small Laotian T-28 striking force, whose pilots generally fly at safer--but less effective--higher altitudes.

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DAILY BRIEF

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The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

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The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

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